The second part says that the Central Government cannot remain merely a spectator or a monitoring authority. Well, Sir, these matters were discussed on the floor of this House when the House was discussing the report of the National Commission on Rural Labour. In that debate on the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour, there was unanimity in this House that there must be a Central legislation for the agricultural workers covering two aspects. One is settlement of their disputes and enforcement of their rights. The second part of it is to have a social security measure for them. These two points unanimously emerged in this very House. And, the debate is on in the other House. I think it comes up there next Friday on a Private Member's Bill. An opinion is emerging unanimously even in the Lok Sabha. I can assure the House that we will honour the unanimous opinions of both the Houses of Parliament and the Government will come forward with a proposal for a Central legislation.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : The hon. Minister has said that the agricultural labour in this country is 110 million. He has also said that because of the lack of organisation and trade unions, they have no bargaining power. He has also conceded that the role of the Government, the Central Government, is advisory. In view of all these difficulties, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the Labour Ministers' Conferences, they have really tried to sell the idea of making labour a Concurrent subject so that the decision of the Central Government does not remain only an advice but becomes enforceable through legislation.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, his particular point has not been discussed. Actually it is a very sensitive subject. I do not know whether it will be discussed at all. Anyway, as far as minimum wages and bonded labour are concerned, the Labour Conferences have been discussing them. For example, the 37th Labour Ministers' Conference of 1988 had discussed this issue threadbare. Earlier to that, the 31st Labour Ministers' Conference of 1980, the 36th Labour Ministers' Conference of 1987 and the August 1992 Labour Ministers' Conference, all the four Labour Ministers' Conferences have gone into this issue in depth. Besides this, we have the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour before us and as such, the Government is going into all the recommendations of these conferences, expert committees and commissions and proposing to come forward with an amendment to the Act. Beyond, that, I cannot say anything.

*364. [*The Questioners (Shri V. Hanumantha Rao and Dr. Sanjaya Sinh) were absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Sir, I was to ask a very important question in respect of a neglected tribal area.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to go on with the Question Hour because we are taking up very few questions, which is unfair to the House.

(Hon. Member absent)

*36. [*The Questioner (Choudhary Hormohan Singh) was absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]

Decline in Export of Oilseeds

*366. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is heavy decline in the export of oilseeds due to the use of banned insecticides in the country;

(b) what is the percentage of decrease in export registered since last three years, till date; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Govt. to boost its export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) India has been an importer of edible oil and the export of oilseeds has generally not been allowed except for HPS (handpicked and selected) groundnut, sesame seed, niger seed, and safflower seed (subject to a limited ceiling). Exports of these oilseeds during the last three years have been as under :—

(Quantity in MTs)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	Decrease %age
1. HPS groundnut	24,791	35,473	1,725	93.04
2. Sesame seed	138,530	47,187	33,533	75.79
3. Niger seed	11,799	10,387	13,000	(—)10.17
4. Safflower seed	NIL	NIL	NIL	—

(Source : Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association (IOPEA).

(c) Decline of these experts is due mainly to the absence of purchases by the former Soviet Union, low productivity, lack of price competitiveness, unacceptable quality, aflatoxin problem, and pesticide residues. Use of banned insecticides such as DDT, BHC etc. is also a factor in the decline of these exports.

In addition to the general steps taken by the Government to build up an environment conducive for exports the following steps have been taken specifically to overcome the constraints of exports in this sector :—

(i) Government has banned the use of pesticides such as DDT and BHC in the production of oilseeds.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to launch necessary programmes to educate the farmers.

(iii) Adoption of improved cleaning methods and quality control methods are being encouraged.

(iv) Alfatoxin resistant varieties of seeds and appropriate post-harvest practices are also being propagated.

(v) The exporters are being encouraged to build up better rapport with the importers in the various markets.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Sir, the figures which have been given by the hon. Minister show a very pathetic picture of how our exports in oil and the connected seeds have gone so low that in 1989-90, our export in respect of HPS groundnut was 24,791 metric tons; in 1990-91, it was 35,473 metric tons and in 1991-92, it was 1,725 metric tons. The decrease has been shown to be 93.04 per cent. In respect of Sesame seed, the decrease has been shown to be 75 per cent and in respect of Safflower seed, it has become minus. Sir, on the one hand, the Government is encouraging the farmers to grow more oilseeds and on the other, they are not getting any price for their produce. Export has become totally nil. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what the Government is doing to find a market for the farmers' oilseeds.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, so far as the facts are concerned, I have indicated the same in the statement and the hon. Member corroborated them as correct. The exports in respect of handpicked groundnut and the Sesame seed have gone down mainly because of the factors which I have explained in the statement, that there were aflatoxin contents, certain acids were also present and moreover, one of the traditional markets was lost to us, that is, the rupee-payment area, with the collapse of the Soviet system. Now, we have taken certain corrective steps, particularly the

complaint from the consumers in regard to presence of certain aflatoxin in the HPS groundnut and certain acids in certain other types of oilseeds. We have taken corrective steps The use of DDT and BHC has been banned in the production of oilseeds and we hope that with these measures taken, it would be possible for us to get back the traditional market and the new market which we had. But, in this connection, you will have to keep in view that India is not a traditional exporter of oilseeds except in these limited areas because till recently, India was a major importer of edible oils because there was a big gap between the demand and the supply. However, fortunately, and it goes to the credit of our farmers, we are bridging that gap safely and very soon India may emerge as near self-sufficient in oilseed production.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Sir, it has been stated by the Government that one of the reasons why our exports have gone down is the use of insecticides which have been banned outside. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is finding alternative insecticides in place of banned insecticides; whether research is going on to provide insecticides which are not banned in other countries so that the oilseeds can be exported.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have already replied that we have decided to put a ban on DDT and some other insecticides which are objected to and other substitutes like pesticides have been used.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Mr. Vice-Chairman, we were exporting castor seeds and castor-oil. Some years back CCA was given to the exporters but suddenly it has been stopped by the Commerce Ministry and their cases are yet pending with the Commerce Ministry. I would like to know whether the Government is considering their cases and whether they will be encouraged to export castor seeds and castor-oil.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, the question relates to the export of certain oilseeds and according to our Trade Policy, depending on various factors, particularly the local conditions and certain other issues, sometimes restrictions are being imposed on the export and import of certain individual items.

श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल : मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने एक्सपोर्ट घटने के जो कारण बताए हैं यह आपकी जानकारी में कब आए और इनको दूर करने की क्या कोशिश की गई ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It is getting reflected in the figures which we are getting from our Export Promotion Councils, and the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

कोयला क्षेत्र की अप्रयुक्त उत्पादन-क्षमता

*367. **श्री वीरेन जे. शाह** †

श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में देश में कोयले के मूल्यों में 12 प्रतिशत वृद्धि किए जाने के बावजूद कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड एक लाभकारी प्रतिष्ठान के रूप में कार्य नहीं कर पाएगा;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में कोयला क्षेत्र की उत्पादन क्षमता का एक बड़ा भाग अप्रयुक्त पड़ा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह अप्रयुक्त क्षमता कितनी है; और

(घ) उत्पादन-क्षमता का पूरा-पूरा उपयोग न कर पाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. As in 1991-92, working results of Coal India Limited (CIL) are

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री वीरेन जे. शाह द्वारा पूछा गया ।